

In the claims:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a left end piece;

a right end piece; and

a pillow;

wherein the left end piece has a recess into which a left portion of the pillow can be inserted;

wherein the right end piece has a recess into which a right portion of the pillow can be inserted;

and wherein the pillow is substantially softer than the left end piece and the right end piece;

wherein the right end piece overlaps the right portion of the pillow when the right portion of the pillow is in the recess of the right end piece; and

wherein the left end piece overlaps the left portion of the pillow when the left portion of the pillow is in the recess of the left end piece.

2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein

the recess of the left end piece and the recess of the right end piece have a width, which is about the same as a dimension of the pillow.

3. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein

the recess of the left end piece and the recess of the right end piece have a width and a height, which is about the same as a width, and height of the pillow.

4. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising
a sleeve; and
wherein the pillow, the left end piece, and the right end piece can be inserted into the sleeve while the left portion of the pillow is inserted into the recess of the left end piece and while the right portion of the pillow is inserted into the recess of the right end piece.
5. (original) The apparatus of claim 4 further comprising
a pillow covering; and
wherein the sleeve, the pillow, the left end piece, and the right end piece can be inserted into the pillow covering, while the left portion of the pillow is inserted into the recess of the left end piece, while the right portion of the pillow is inserted into the recess of the right end piece, and while the pillow, left end piece, and right end piece are inserted into the sleeve.
6. (currently amended) A method comprising the steps of
inserting a right portion of a pillow into a recess of a right end piece;
inserting a left portion of a pillow into a recess of a left end piece; and
wherein the pillow is substantially softer than the left end piece and the right end piece;
wherein the right end piece overlaps the right portion of the pillow when the right portion of the pillow is in the recess of the right end piece; and
wherein the left end piece overlaps the left portion of the pillow when the left portion of the pillow is in the recess of the left end piece.
7. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein
the recess of the left end piece and the recess of the right end piece have a width, which is

about the same as a dimension of the pillow.

8. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein

the recess of the left end piece and the recess of the right end piece have a width and a height, which is about the same as a width, and height of the pillow.

9. (original) The method of claim 6 further comprising

Inserting the pillow, the left end piece, and the right end piece into a sleeve while the left portion of the pillow is inserted into the recess of the left end piece and while the right portion of the pillow is inserted into the recess of the right end piece.

10. (original) The method of claim 9 further comprising

Inserting the sleeve, the pillow, the left end piece, and the right end piece into a pillow covering, while the left portion of the pillow is inserted into the recess of the left end piece, while the right portion of the pillow is inserted into the recess of the right end piece, and while the pillow, left end piece, and right end piece are inserted into the sleeve.

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 41 wherein

the right portion of the pillow has a top surface and a bottom surface;

wherein the right end piece overlaps the top and bottom surfaces of the right portion of the pillow when the right portion of the pillow is in the recess of the right end piece;

wherein the left portion of the pillow has a top surface and a bottom surface; and

wherein the left end piece overlaps the top and bottom surfaces of the left portion of the pillow when the left portion of the pillow is in the recess of the left end piece.

13. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 11 further comprising

a sleeve; and

wherein the pillow, the left end piece, and the right end piece can be inserted into the sleeve while the left portion of the pillow is inserted into the recess of the left end piece and while the right portion of the pillow is inserted into the recess of the right end piece.

14. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising

a pillow covering; and

wherein the sleeve, the pillow, the left end piece, and the right end piece can be inserted into the pillow covering, while the left portion of the pillow is inserted into the recess of the left end piece, while the right portion of the pillow is inserted into the recess of the right end piece, and while the pillow, left end piece, and right end piece are inserted into the sleeve.

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 45 wherein

the right portion of the pillow has a top surface and a bottom surface;

wherein the right end piece overlaps the top and bottom surfaces of the right portion of the pillow when the right portion of the pillow is in the recess of the right end piece;

wherein the left portion of the pillow has a top surface and a bottom surface; and

wherein the left end piece overlaps the top and bottom surfaces of the left portion of the

pillow when the left portion of the pillow is in the recess of the left end piece.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 45 ~~6~~ further comprising

inserting the pillow, the left end piece, and the right end piece into a sleeve while the left portion of the pillow is inserted into the recess of the left end piece and while the right portion of the pillow is inserted into the recess of the right end piece.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 17 further comprising

inserting the sleeve, the pillow, the left end piece, and the right end piece into a pillow covering, while the left portion of the pillow is inserted into the recess of the left end piece, while the right portion of the pillow is inserted into the recess of the right end piece, and while the pillow, left end piece, and right end piece are inserted into the sleeve.